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Reviews

El Estudiante de Salamanca and Other Selections from Espronceda, edited by GEORGE TYLER NORTHUP. Chicago, Ginn and Co., 1919. lxviii+150 pp.

An edition of selections from Spain's foremost romantic poet fills one of the most serious gaps in advanced texts. This edition of Espronceda will be of service in Spanish courses dealing with poetry, romanticism or modern literature. It is doubtful whether any other single work from the first half of the nineteenth century could illustrate so well Spanish literature and civilization.

Besides the *Estudiante*, the edition includes some of the best known short poems of Espronceda, the *Canción del Pirata*, the *Canto del Cosaco*, *El Mendigo*, a sonnet and *A Teresa*.

The introduction, unusually complete, discusses Espronceda's life and works, the *Estudiante de Salamanca*, bibliography and versification. The poet's life is told with some detail in an easy style. The intimate relation of Espronceda to important historical and literary movements is pointed out. This biography should stimulate interest in the long drawn out, turbulent, tragic, sordid and yet heroic events that marked the passage of Spain from the old order of the eighteenth century to modern constitutional liberty. From a vast amount of complicated material, Professor Northup has skillfully chosen the details bearing most directly on Espronceda's career, i.e., the *trienio liberal*, the invasion of Spain by the French in 1823, the formation of secret societies, the absolutism of Ferdinand VII, the expulsion of the Liberals, the amnesty granted by María Cristina, etc. It is hard to suggest improvements in such an excellent piece of work. The need for compression has perhaps obscured several passages. Thus, the identity of Escosura and Solís and the nature of their works are not immediately clear (pp. x, xi); the liberal administration (1820-1823) is somewhat vaguely sketched (pp. xiii-xv); the claim of don Carlos to the throne is not stated (p. xxiv); Espronceda's most famous fellow *emigrados* are not mentioned (p. xxiv); the exact date of Espronceda's return to Spain in 1833 is not given (p. xxiv). Professor Northup's estimate of Espronceda's character and beliefs is judicious and convincing.

Espronceda's works are briefly and ably discussed. On page xxxiv the statement is made that "Genuine world-weariness is

the outgrowth of a more complex civilization than that of Spain." In itself this statement is difficult of proof, but, applied to Espronceda, it is especially unconvincing, because Espronceda came into direct contact with life in other countries. On page xxxvii, dates of poems would be helpful. The sources of *El Estudiante de Salamanca* are traced with precision. All classes of readers will be interested in its connection with the Don Juan legend.

The bibliographical note clearly contains all important material. It is not made clear that an article on Espronceda is only a comparatively small portion of Piñeyro's *El Romanticismo en España*. Many readers would welcome references to authoritative works on Spanish history during Espronceda's life.

The admirable notes on versification are as clear as this difficult subject can be made in brief compass.

The text itself is carefully edited, according to principles laid down in the preface. The notes are well-chosen, interesting, concise and scholarly. They are textual, linguistic, metrical, historical and interpretative. The reviewer would like to see more notes on the meaning or significance of various passages, such as *El Estudiante*, lines 110-115, 132-135, 492-494, 565. Very few notes seem to need change; in *El Estudiante*, line 96, the explanation of *que* might include comment on *su*; line 459, the last sentence is hardly adequate; line 653, *vos* has occurred previously, in line 611 and elsewhere.

The vocabulary is rich in meanings, as it should be. Very few omissions of meanings (none of words) have been noted. There appears to be no satisfactory equivalent for *vislumbrar*, page 4, line 22; *duenna* for *dueña*, page 38, line 797, is not clear. No allowance is made for *u*, page 64, line 1544.

A textbook like this one gives the reviewer ample opportunity to praise and very little to censure. Typographically, the whole edition is all but flawless. Professor Northup has brought out for advanced classes one of the most happily chosen and most competently edited of Spanish texts.

JOHN VAN HORNE.

I

Spanish Selections for Sight Translation. Compiled by I. H. B. SPIERS. New York, D. C. Heath & Co., 47 pp.

The compiler tells us that the purpose of the fifty short selections is "to afford the teacher a ready means of ascertaining by occasional tests the increase in power gained by the students. For this reason the selections are carefully graded in difficulty."

One would expect a steady increase in difficulty from the beginning to the end. Yet, if number I, *El Canal de Panamá*,